GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:18
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015
Emission Norms for Thermal Power Plants
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new emission norms are laid down by the Government for thermal power plants;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether steps have been taken by the Government to restrict power plants to cut down the withdrawal of fresh water for plant use;
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action initiated against the defaulters; and
(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified draft notification on revised emission norms for thermal power plants. The draft notification interalia has proposed to restrict water consumption and envisages that all the thermal power plants with Once Through Cooling (OTC) shall install Cooling Tower (CT) and achieve water consumption maximum of 4m3 / MWh within 2 years period from the date of notification. In case of all the existing CT- based plants, there will be reduction of specific water consumption upto maximum of 3.5 5m3 / MWh within 2 years period from the date of notification. The new plants which are to be installed after January 01, 2017 shall meet specific water consumption maximum of 2.5 m3 / MWh and achieve zero liquid discharge.

The draft notification also provides emission limits for particulate matter, sulphur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen and mercury for both existing and yet to be commissioned thermal power plants.

Actions against the defaulters are taken as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986 and so far, Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to fourteen (14) thermal power plants and directions under section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention of Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention of Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 have been issued to ten (10) thermal power plants for securing compliance to the prevailing environmental standards notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
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